



Needham Council for Arts and Culture

Meeting Minutes

08/17/2021 at 7:00PM | Zoom

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- Welcome and roll call
 - NCAC Members Present:
 - Cathy (Charly) Nanda
 - Gail Lustig
 - Joni Schockett
 - Sharon Breitbart
 - Julia Gould
 - Elizabeth Cook
 - Absent: Anne McCaffrey, Heather Simmons, Bala Muthukaruppan, Samantha Hoff, Betsy Milane
 - Other People present: Amy Haelsen, Corinne
 - Approval of Past Minutes
 - Motion to approve: Joni Schockett
 - Second: Julia Gould
 - Unanimously approved
 - Housekeeping:
 - MCC moved system to SmartSimple
 - Toolkit with info has moved to MCC website
 - Need to set Council Priorities by 8/31/21
 - Open Meeting Law Email Issue
 - Conversation via email is considered a deliberation, not allowed via email
 - Scheduling convos are ok, everything else is a violation against the open meeting law
 - One-on-one conversations are ok
 - Council Member Roles
 - 11 Current members
 - Opening for 3 additional Members
 - Gail passed Treasury info off to Samantha
 - Charly and Bala discussed the joint-chair position
 - Town Fair – organizer needed
 - October 3rd
 - NCAC has a table
 - Julia to work on banner designs
 - FY22 meetings
 - Split between remote and in-person
 - Schedule aligns with MCC milestones
 - Survey Results
 - 51 Respondents
 - 68% White
 - 90% Women, 30+
 - Community Events: Music
 - Population in need of funds: Low income, Seniors, BIPOC, Children/teens
 - Outreach: Facebook mainly, newspapers as well

- 70% Unaware of our name change
- 60% would use an online Arts calendar
- 66% Unaware that we grant funds, down from 76% last year
- FY21 Council Priorities
 - #1 Needham based orgs and individuals
 - #2 New submissions, especially those that address the needs of underserved/in need groups
 - #3 Applicants that elevate the diverse experiences of historically marginalized populations
 - #4 Programs that demonstrate community support or utilize partnerships
 - #5 Orgs that are suffering because of the economic impact of COVID
- Complaint from Past Grantee
 - Reached out to Charly about not receiving grant for FY21, Charly provided resources to appeal the grant denial
 - Need to look at priorities to ensure there is a clause clearly states limits to funding by organization or population served
- FY22 Council Priorities
 - Include line in FY22 priorities that mentions spreading funds equitably across groups
 - Remove clarification of “New Submissions” to just “submissions that address the needs of underserved/in need groups”
 - Include: Council aims to accommodate a wide range of audiences in Needham
- Artist Reception Discussion
 - Town Fair may be hard for this reception/open house
 - Information Session instead of Reception
 - Open Meeting/Space to display ideas/answer questions to learn about the grants, help with applications, etc.
 - Zoom Meeting – 9/21 Open Meeting
- Public Art update
 - Mural Updates
 - still in progress
 - Amy reached out to property management company that owns the Trader Joes building, Permission needed from all tenants
 - Joni working on RFP and one-pager to help with fundraising
- Art Box update
 - Retiring Art Box Committee now that 3rd box is complete
 - 3rd box picked up by Wicked Local/Patch and Needham Channel
- Advocacy update
 - Cultural Impact Group submitted recommendations to Legislature for \$575M
 - Municipal Funding Requests
 - Match MCC Funding?
 - Last year \$30K requested, \$7K granted
 - Hire a freelancer to help out with events
 - Deadline for request – Amy to confirm
- Scheduling and other business

Sub-Committee/ *Leads					
Public Art	Marketing	Art Box	Advocacy	On -Boarding	Fundraising
Heather*	Charly*	Charly*	Bala*	Elizabeth*	Betsy*

Bala*	Julia*	Julia
Joni	Sharon	Sharon
Charly	Joni	Betsy
Betsy	Heather	
Julia		

Future Meeting Dates

Meeting Date	Location	MCC Timeline Event	Notes
September 21, 2021	In Person	2021 Reception/Grant Open House	*Combined with Regular Meeting?
November 16, 2021	Remote	1st Grant Meeting	*This year grants will be assigned online by Nov 1 and discussed over 2 meetings.
December 14, 2021	In Person	Voting Meeting	Usually a Longer Meeting (1.5-2hrs)
January 18, 2022	Remote	Rejection & Approval Letters	
March 8, 2022	Remote	Grant Processing	
April 26, 2022	Remote	Survey	
Week of May 16th	In Person	Artist Reception	*Not a regular meeting
June 14, 2022	In Person	Elections	